

COMMENDING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND OTHERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND ERADICATE POLIO

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Rotary International and others for their efforts in vaccinating children around the world against polio. I also rise to encourage continued commitment and funding by the U.S. Government to the global effort to eradicate polio. In this regard, I want to thank Senator DICK DURBIN for his leadership in bringing this timely resolution to the Senate.

Polio is a highly infectious disease that primarily affects children and for which there is no known cure. It can leave survivors permanently disabled or paralyzed. Eradication of polio is a high priority for Rotary International, whose membership extends across the country and in more than 170 countries. I am proud to represent the Rotarians of the 7th congressional district of Washington, who have generously given their time and financial support to the global fight against polio.

The U.S. Government is the leading public sector donor to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The Centers for Disease Control and the United States Agency for International Development have been at the forefront in the U.S. Government's work to eradicate polio both nationally and internationally. Polio is now endemic only in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Over the past week, it has become more difficult for international organizations to distribute polio vaccines to children in Pakistan. There is a critical lesson for the U.S. Government to learn. When humanitarian workers are used for intelligence collecting purposes, as we saw in Dr. Shakil Afridi's case, it erodes trust and undermines legitimate humanitarian work.

The immediate and long-term consequences of the CIA's ill-conceived project with Dr. Afridi are grave. The immediate consequence of Dr. Afridi's bogus vaccination program run by the CIA was that the Pakistani Taliban in northern Waziristan have since used it as an excuse to ban polio vaccinations to 161,000 children. The long-term impact is that it will be fodder for conspiracy theorists that American espionage is everywhere and that medical programs could have sinister motives.

The tragic impact of CIA's operation is that thousands of Pakistan's children who could have been vaccinated will suffer or die from polio.

As we recognize our achievements in eradicating polio, I urge my colleagues to look at countries where polio is still endemic and work to ensure that intelligence agencies are not using medical workers as tools to collect information.

CONGRATULATING GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Galveston Bay Foundation for their 25 years of dedication and continual service to preserving, protecting, and enhancing Galveston Bay and its surrounding communities.

Since 1987, the Galveston Bay Foundation has demonstrated a lasting commitment to the conservation of our environment and community through the institution of essential and effective environmental programs. These programs continue to collectively improve the environment and well-being throughout our community. In doing so, the foundation has established a reputation of unyielding excellence and as a result earned accolades such as the Texas Environmental Excellence Award, a 5-Star Award from the Environmental Protection Agency, and many more.

Through conscious action the Galveston Bay Foundation continues to promote environmental responsibility and provide a safe coastal environment that enhances the welfare of the community, economy, and environment. The continuous service of the Galveston Bay Foundation has made an enduring impact on our community and for their continued efforts I am proud to support the Galveston Bay Foundation.

I congratulate the board of trustees, staff, and volunteers at the Galveston Bay Foundation for all of their hard work and dedication to the conservation of the Galveston Bay and surrounding communities.

COMMENDING THE TRANSLATIONAL GENOMICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues from Arizona to commend the Translational Genomics Research Institute for a decade of biomedical research success.

TGen was founded in Arizona in 2002 to leverage new scientific discoveries from the mapping of the human genome, and its establishment promptly accelerated the state into the era of genomics and personalized medicine.

Significant to TGen's establishment was the confluence of support from all sectors of the state to attract this new institute to base its operations in Arizona as well as recruit the renowned geneticist, Dr. Jeffrey Trent to lead it, and position the state as a worldwide leader in bioscience and medical discovery. Academic, business, philanthropic and government leaders all joined forces in a statewide campaign within a matter of months to strategically assemble the necessary support. The members of Arizona's delegation also rallied behind this collective vision.

What most excited Arizona leaders was the vision put forth by Dr. Jeff Trent, to accelerate

and translate scientific discovery into more immediate and effective benefits for patients, all made possible with the new information from the human genome and rapidly developing technology.

It was on this day ten years ago, June 26, 2002, with high expectations and hopes, that Governor Hull and state leaders announced the successful launch of TGen and the genomics era in Arizona. A decade of exciting growth and new research discoveries has since transpired, with TGen's rising tide lifting all boats.

Investment into TGen and the biosciences spurred growth across the state, catalyzing the launch of the Critical Path Institute and Bio5 in southern Arizona, to ASU's Biodesign Institute and a northern Phoenix bio campus, and TGen North and expansion of W.L. Gore in northern Arizona. The bioindustry has flourished over the past ten years, even during economic downturns, becoming a significant high-performing sector of the Arizona economy.

For patients, TGen is offering hope where there had been none with novel treatments offered only in Arizona. By partnering with clinical entities like the Mayo Clinic and Scottsdale Healthcare, TGen is focusing on utilizing genomic analyses to improve and customize patient treatments. Patients with pancreatic cancer and rare diseases like basal cell carcinoma are finding answers to their treatment struggles, improving quality of patient lives and allowing more years to spend with loved ones. Whether it's sequencing anthrax or the plague, investigating H1N1 or Valley Fever; finding new clues to triple-negative breast cancer or Alzheimer's disease; or, leading new collaborative research partnerships addressing pediatric and canine cancers, TGen's research has made substantial inroads over the past ten years.

More than a decade ago, the mapping of human genome represented a challenge to the world to make use of this new knowledge for the benefit of humankind. Arizona answered this challenge and now TGen is leading the model to fuse modern medicine with the power of translational research to fuel the next wave of treatments for all manner of human diseases.

As the tenth-year anniversary of TGen's launch is celebrated today, I applaud Dr. Trent and the scientists at TGen for their unwavering commitment to make a difference for patients and lead innovative research for Arizona into the next decade.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROLLING THUNDER DEMONSTRATION RUN

### HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 26, 2012*

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Rolling Thunder Demonstration Run, held annually over Memorial Day weekend in Washington, DC.

Rolling Thunder was founded in 1987 by Vietnam veterans Ray Manzo, Walt Sides, John Holland and Ted Sampley to bring attention and awareness to unaccounted for servicemen and women at the conclusion of the Vietnam War.